

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant has amended Figure 2 of the Application as originally filed to add callouts 53, 55, 57, 59 and 60. Applicant has amended the Specification to insert additional textual support that further differentiates the present invention from the prior art. Support for these textual amendments is found in Figure 2 of the Application as originally filed. No new material has been added for which there was not support in the Application as originally filed. Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 9 and 16, cancelled dependent claims 3, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 17 and 20, and amended dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 18 and 19. Dependent claim 13 was previously cancelled. Amendments to the dependent claims are primarily to clarify language usage and correct the claim dependency. In light of these amendments and the reasons provided below, Applicant believes the amended claims are distinguishable over the prior art.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1-12 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,266,560 to Powell (hereinafter "Powell" in view of US Patent No. 6,296,566 to Tanis (hereinafter "Tanis"), or vice-versa.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 1-12 and 14-20 as amended as being clearly distinguishable from and patentable over Powell and Tanis, as explained below. The Examiner indicates that Powell does not disclose an infeed section located on a frusto-conical portion of the rotor, but that Tanis teaches that it is known in the art to provide a frusto-conical infeed section, and that it would have been obvious to combine these two documents to attain the present invention.

Neither Tanis nor Powell, alone or in combination, suggest or imply to one skilled in the art the present invention, in which the infeed blades are inclined at one angle along a front portion of the blade and then transition to incline in a different direction along a rear portion of the same blade, with the rear of the blade mounted to an attachment fixture that also secures the adjacent threshing element so as to better direct crop onto the adjacent threshing elements at the appropriate speed and

volume. This improvement is neither found nor suggested in the prior art, taken alone or in combination. Thus, independent Claims 1 and 16, as amended herein, are distinguishable over the prior art. Because Claims 2, 4-6, and 18-19 depend from amended independent Claims 1 or 16, which are distinguishable over the prior art, these dependent Claims are also distinguishable over the prior art. Therefore, allowance of Claims 1,2,4-6, 16, 18 and 19 is respectfully requested.

Additionally, neither Tanis nor Powell, alone or in combination, suggest or imply to one skilled in the art the present invention, in which the infeed blades are bolted to the drum, with the rear of an infeed blade and a threshing element secured in alignment with each other, using a single attachment fixture. Infeed blades that are affixed at a rear end to a specific mounting fixture that serves to direct the crop material directly onto the threshing surface of a threshing element affixed to the same mounting fixture are not suggested or implied by the prior art. Additionally, bolting enables replacement of individual blades or portions of blades that become damaged during use, such as would occur if a rock or other foreign object were taken up into the rotor. Use of a rotor with damaged blades could reduce efficiency of crop processing. Additionally, Thus neither Tanis nor Powell, alone or in combination, imply or suggest the present invention as claimed in independent Claim 9, as amended herein. Because Claims 11-12 depend from amended independent Claim 9, which is distinguishable over the prior art, these dependent Claims are also distinguishable over the prior art. Therefore, allowance of Claims 9, 11 and 12 is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

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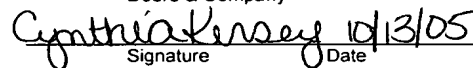
Respectfully,



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